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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1997/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1997/L.11 and addenda.

GE.97-11475 (E)

VII. THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

1. The Commission considered agenda item 7 concurrently with item 4 (see chap. IV) at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 11 to 14 March, and at its 26th meeting, on 26 March 1997. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 7, see annex .. to the present report. For a list of resolutions adopted by the Commission, see annex .. to the present report.

3. At the 7th meeting, on 13 March 1997, the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1997/24).

4. In the general debate on agenda item 7, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Algeria (8th), Angola (8th), Bangladesh (7th), China (6th), Cuba (6th), Egypt (5th), India (6th), Indonesia (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (6th)) (8th), Nicaragua (8th), Pakistan (6th), Sri Lanka (8th), Republic of Korea (5th), Russian Federation (8th).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Armenia (6th), Azerbaijan (8th), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (8th), Iraq (7th), Jordan (5th), Morocco (8th), Norway (6th), Portugal (7th), Swaziland (4th). The observer for Palestine also made a statement (8th).

6. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (7th), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (5th), Christian Solidarity International (9th), France-Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (5th), Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation (7th), Indigenous World Association (6th), International Association of Democratic Lawyers (6th), International Educational Development, Inc. (6th), International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (9th), International Indian Treaty Council (9th), International Institute for Peace (9th), International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (9th), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (7th), Liberation (6th), Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (6th), Society for Threatened Peoples (9th), Transnational Radical Party (5th), World Muslim Congress (6th), World Peace Council (9th).

7. Statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representatives of Algeria (9th), China (9th), Indonesia (9th), Mexico (9th) and Zaire (9th) and by the observers for Armenia (7th, 9th), Azerbaijan (7th), Morocco (7th, 9th) and Portugal (9th).

8. At its 26th meeting, on 26 March 1997, the Commission took up consideration of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 7.

Situation in occupied Palestine

9. The representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.4, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen. Mauritania, South Africa, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates subsequently joined the sponsors.

10. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

11. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

12. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/4.

Question of Western Sahara

13. The Chairman of the Commission introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.7.

14. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/5.

Middle East peace process

15. The representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.8, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Nepal, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and Ukraine subsequently joined the sponsors.

16. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Algeria and Egypt and by the observers for Israel and Palestine.

17. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

18. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of France.

19. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/6.